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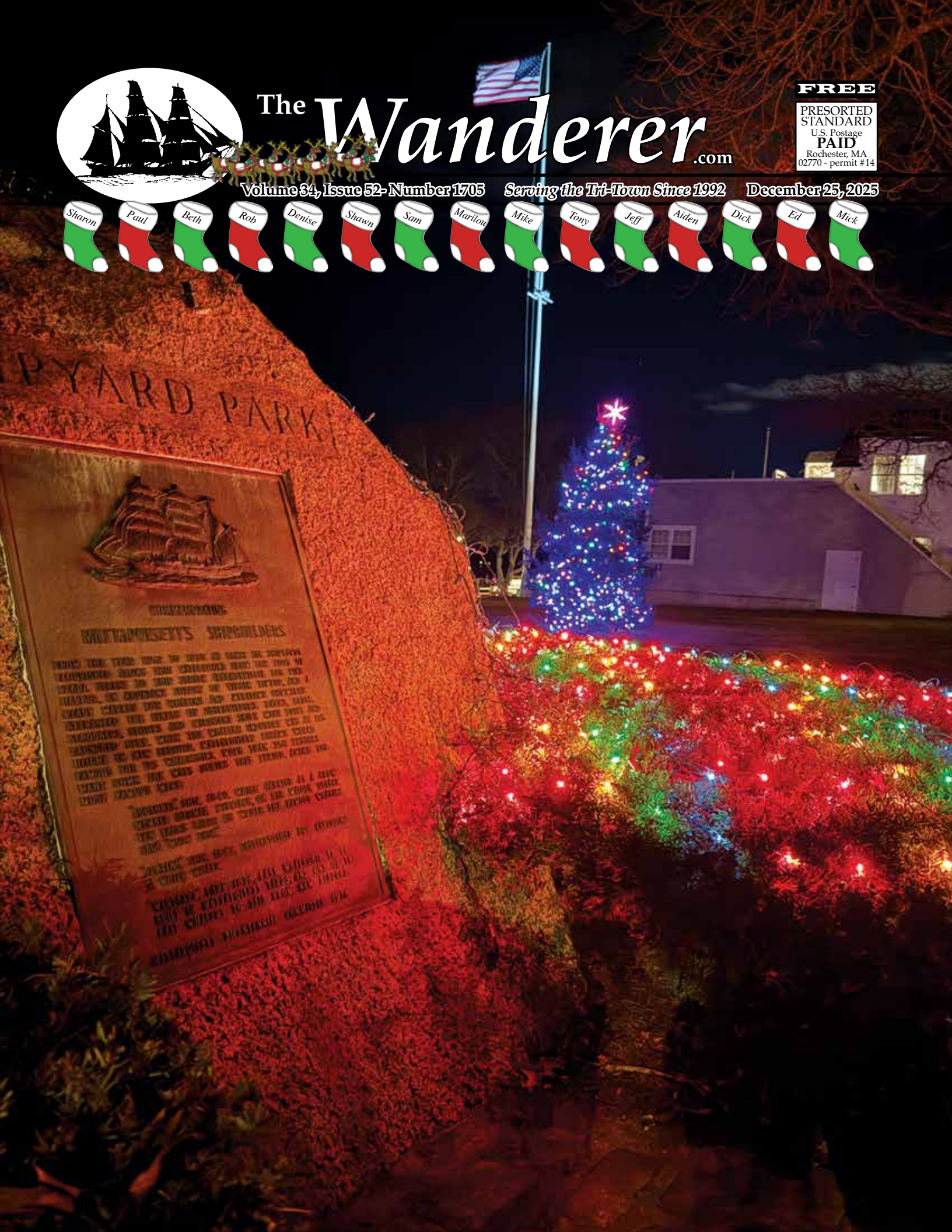

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Illegal Christmas and Ancient Complaints

Some Christmas Tales

By Sam Bishop

We all know the classic Christmas stories, generally; or at least we get the gist of them. We know 'Twas the Night Before Christmas and The Grinch, but here's a couple interesting Christmas tales you can quiz your family on this Christmas, should you fancy yourself an Alex Trebek.

In the Plymouth colony following its founding, circa 1620~, Christmas was not celebrated. Not just for the fact that their very survival was at stake and celebrating a holiday was last on their minds, but for the simple fact that its celebration was made illegal by the Puritans. Yes, I know what you're thinking, "the Puritans? You mean those blokes famous for their tolerance?" Yea, those guys! The Pilgrims had arrived in Plymouth on December 20, so that December was totally focused on sheer survival. Governor William Bradford, taking over just after John Carver, dissuaded public celebrations on the day.

Pilgrim colonist William Bradford wrote at the time, "One day called Christmas-day, ye Governor called them out to work, but most of this new company excused

Marion's own Christmas tree at Old Landing Veterans Park. The tree, made of lobster pots, was designed and put up by the Department of Public Works. Photo by Sam Bishop

On the Cover: *Mattapoisett's Shipyard Park Christmas tree flanked by the park's sign. Those who have passed by at night were treated to the park's lanterns' warm, fiery glow. The gazebo is also lit, as well as there being a small installation at the end of the Town Wharf. Photo by Sam Bishop*

Deadline for the January 1 Edition

Classified and Legal Advertisements - Monday at 2pm

Press Releases - Monday at 10am

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themselves and said it went against their consciences to work on [this] day. So ye Governor told them that if they made it matter of conscience, he would spare them till they were better informed." Later, he added, "He found them in ye street at play, openly; some pitching ye barr, & some at stoole-ball, and such like sports. So he went to them, and took away their implements, and told them that was against his conscience, that they should play & others work."

That was more of an informal ban, but later, in Boston, in 1659, the governing body of the Massachusetts Bay Colony enacted a law titled the "Penalty for Keeping Christmas." It stated, "festivals as were superstitiously kept in other countries" and went on to say it was a "great dishonor of God and offence of others." Those found celebrating were to be fined 5 shillings, or about as much as a parking ticket today. As time went on and more non-puritans arrived in the colonies, Christmas celebrations began to be accepted and by the mid-1700s, they were fairly commonplace. Christmas was made a Massachusetts state holiday in 1856 and a national holiday in 1870.

On to the next tale! Many have some feeling of "Oh, Christmas was better back in the day, before it was commercialized and all about spending money. Also, the Christmas season starts too early!" That may seem like a newer sentiment. Maybe the last 50 years? The last 100? Surely a product of the Victorian Age? Let's go back 1,600 years...

The Roman Macrobius Ambrosius Theodosius was likely from modern-day Spain or Northern Africa around 400 AD. Christianity had only been legalized in Rome in 313, so not totally the de-facto religion of all in Rome. Many, if not most, still believed in and celebrated traditional Roman-pagan traditions. The end-of-year, solstice holiday was Saturnalia. Basically, replace "Christ" in Christmas with the god "Saturn" and you've got it.

Macrobius wrote seven books on the history and

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practice of the holiday of Saturnalia. The books contain many contracting statements and historical oddities, but they at least offer a window into the mind of a 5th-century Roman, and someone possibly not so different from ourselves. He complains of the loss of the "old ways" and fusses over overconsumption and indulgence. Saturnalia used to last a day, then a week, now close to a month!

Famous historian Pliny the Younger would even lock himself in his house for days to escape the lengthy partying. A real Grinch, if you will. Macrobius also complained that it used to be that gift-giving was more of an inexpensive ordeal, as an expensive gift was seen as "bragging." Now, he was expected to shell out money for parties and gifts! Roman Senator Lucius Annaeus Seneca complained over rampant partying, merriment and drunkenness, saying famously in his *Moral Letters,* "Once, December was a month; now, it is a year."

So, the complaints over Christmas and other end-of-year celebrations aren't new at all. Actually, they're ancient! Some things never change.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

A Poet in Rochester

By Sam Bishop

We have many artists in our midst in the Tri-Town. It really makes life special, and highlights what makes the area special. There have been and are many poets in Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester, but recently a new one's on the block.

Isabel Friedrichs of Rochester just released her first book, a collection of poems she's written over the last few years. Friedrichs is currently attending Worcester Polytechnic Institute for Environmental Engineering and will graduate next year, 2026. Just before that big achievement, she self-published *The Blue Series: Poems on Love, Loss, and Learning to Heal* just last month.

She told The Wanderer, "I am a student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, who grew up in Rochester. I have been writing poetry for almost eight years," with her recent release being a compilation of her musings through her high school and college career. The title of the book is reflective of the tool she used to write, her favorite blue pen.

Friedrichs adds to this and the book's importance to her with its own description, saying, "the Blue Series explores the vulnerable emotions and raw edges of humanity that we often keep quiet. This collection entwines the stories of heartbreak and hope, growing up, the realities of mental health, falling apart, and piecing

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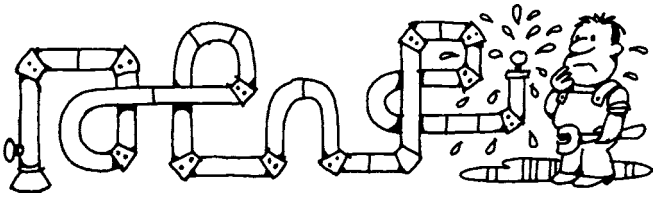

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yourself back together." The transition from teenager to adult is such a pivotal and transformative time in our lives, and this collection captures the journey, while also putting Isabel's journey out to the public, published on the page.

She concludes, "This book is for you. For those who feel deeply, for those who heal in non-linear ways, and who need a gentle reminder that they are not alone."

For those interested in Isabel's nearly decade-long craft, the poetry collection is currently available on Amazon.

Oh, my Aching Knees

What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Edward Hoffer

About 20% of Americans 45 and older have osteoarthritis of the knees, a condition which does not kill you, but which decreases your quality of life.

Osteoarthritis, by far the most common form of arthritis, is more than simple "wear and tear." It does involve wearing away of the cartilage, the smooth "cushions" that cover the ends of the bones. It also involves the bone itself and the synovium, the lining of the joint.

Obesity is a risk factor for osteoarthritis of the knees and hips, but recreational running is not – it may even be protective. Both sedentary lifestyle and very high volume competitive running do increase the risk.

If you have it, what can you do to decrease your pain and be more active?

Rule number 1 is to stay active. Exercise such as walking lubricates the knees and lessens stiffness. If you enjoy running, keep at it. You may find that running on grass is easier than pavement, and be sure to experiment with different shoes.

In addition to aerobic exercise, strengthen your quads. Exercises such as straight leg raises with ankle weights and squats will build up the muscles that support

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the knee.

Tai chi has also been found to decrease pain and increase quality of life.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen and naproxen can be very helpful, but have side effects on the stomach, kidneys and heart. If you use them, use the lowest dose that works for as short a time as possible.

If you find yourself needing NSAIDs daily, ask your doctor for a prescription for a topical (gel or cream) NSAID, which is much safer. The only one available in the U.S. is diclofenac.

If these measures are not adequate, injection of cortisone-type drugs into the knee will usually give quite a bit of relief. The problem with "cortisone shots" is that the relief is temporary, rarely lasting more than 2-3 months, and repeated injections contribute to worsening of the underlying arthritis.

Hyaluronic acid injections are controversial. There are many trials comparing it to placebo injections and while the majority show benefit, many show no advantage of hyaluronic acid. Insurance companies may cite lack of proven benefit and refuse to pay for these injections. It does appear to be safe should you opt to try

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If nothing works and you are willing to have surgery, knee replacement is the ultimate choice. This has good results for most people, but not all. Before opting for surgery, it is critical that you are willing to commit to a vigorous physical therapy program. The surgery is the start, but not the end.

To get the optimal benefit from a "total knee" (or a partial one), expect to spend 4 to 6 months of demanding PT; if you are half-hearted with your exercise program, you will be left with a so-so result. You will still probably have less pain than pre-surgery, but you will not have full knee motion.

Edward Hoffer MD is Associate Professor of Medicine, part-time, at Harvard.

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Delights of Christmas Present and Past

The Seaside Gardener

By Laura McLean

In the absence of flowers and leaves, let there be lights! Strung around trees and shrubs, wound around railings and arbors, adding sparkle to this special season.

Lights are the most vibrant part of holiday apparel, filling the dark, empty void and making everything a lot less gloomy. Variations on the theme are as diverse as the gardens out there, ranging from a plain spotlight shining on a tree to the soft candle glow in a window to colorful extravagant shows that blink and pulsate into the night.

As a kid, I was drawn to the latter style of holiday decorating – large and plastic and alive: Santa in his sleigh with his team of reindeer, Nativity scenes, snowmen, gingerbread people. ... Let's face it, these were the ones that you could see out of the steamy, rear car window! My parents' sedate setup of a spotlighted wreath and colored bulbs on the shrubs paled in comparison. Of course, my tastes migrated in that department as they did in other things, softening to the point where I have a tendency to keep things simple.

Maybe not as simple as my husband. Years back when I deigned to let him string the lights on the Christmas tree, I couldn't help noticing that he began at the bottom, draping it with a certain caprice, and ignored the section that ran along the wall. "Er, aren't you going to clip the light to the branches?" I asked. "And you can't just leave the back naked!" Needless to say, I took over and did it my way. He didn't seem to mind, relieved to go back to his football game. Since then, I am the stringer of the lights, something I rather enjoy.

My children, over the years, have been wowed by

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Christmas lights – dating back to when I put up colored lights on a hemlock tree in the backyard each Christmas season. Until alas I recalled how the ladder sank into the mud one March as I de-strung them. Thenceforth lighting was scaled back of indoor candles, tree lights and a splash of lighting on the shrubbery out front that remains in place all year.

Once when they were probably too young to appreciate such things, I brought my children to the shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro. Volunteers work through the year to put the impressive Christmas Festival – which today is even more impressive – 400,000

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Even as we are carried along by the torrent of the present moment, in the midst of some perfunctory activity, memories surface unexpectedly, offering moments of joy... as I place the Santa Claus doll with

the wonky arm (by now an antique) on the model sailboat as I do each Christmas, my mind goes back to our annual pilgrimage to the city of Boston (where the doll was first gifted to me.) I, perhaps 8 years old, joined my grandmother, great aunt and mother for our highly anticipated Christmas shopping spree in Boston.

We would head from my grandmother's in Uxbridge following the back roads through towns that included Holliston, Natick, Sherborn, Wellesley – through town centers, past old historic churches and town commons so much the fabric of New England small towns. We followed Route 16 and then onto Route 9 to Huntington Ave. and Copley Square. I would vividly remember the stretch up Commonwealth Ave. up to Boston Common where we would park before embarking

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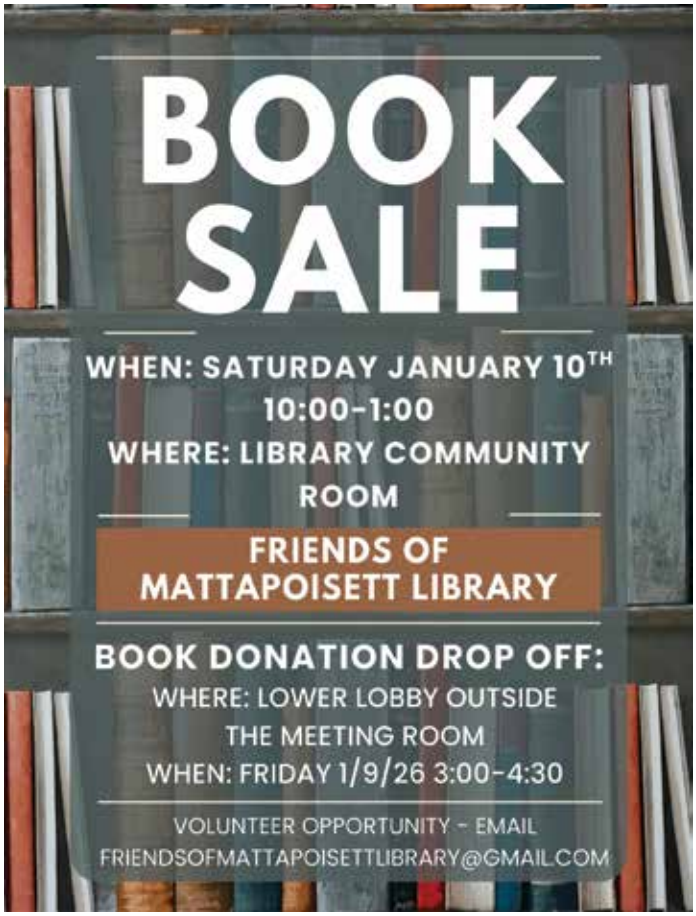
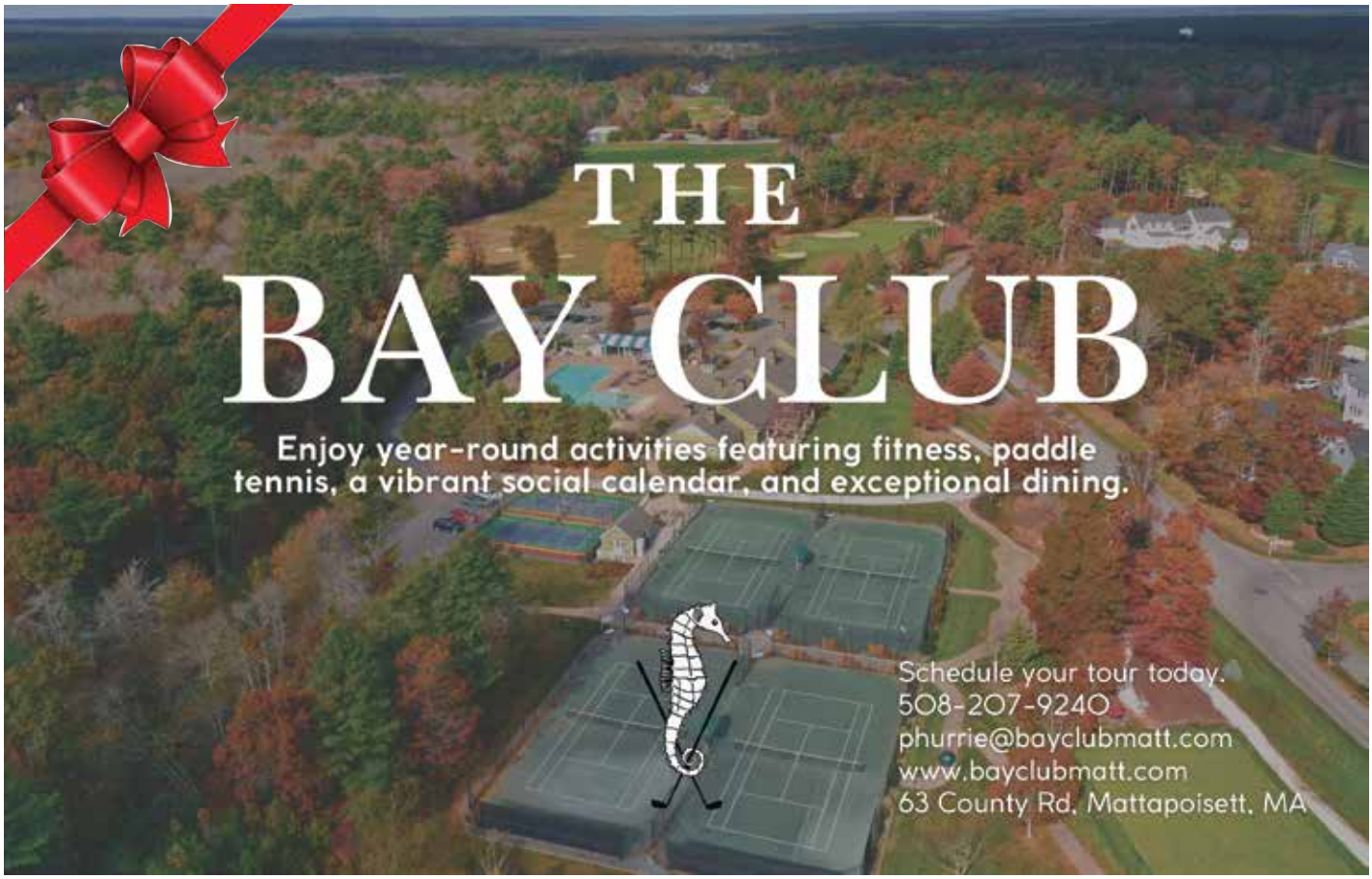
on the stores that included Filene's and Jordan Marsh. The three women were armed with their handwritten lists, and I was barely counter height, but very observant, watching as the lady salesclerks would assist the polite hordes of shoppers. The displays within the stores dazzled, and the crowds of people in their winter coats cast an indelible impression on this small-town girl. (At the time I of course had no idea that I would one day live and work in this same city.)

I recall the drive through the small towns going in and the utter majesty of Commonwealth Avenue Mall with its elegant Back Bay brownstones set against





the parklike backdrop. On the ride home, everything glistened prettily with lighting – streetlights, shop windows, residences, even the trail of taillights added to the beauty of the scene. By then I was tired of being dragged from store to store, but I carried the magic of having visited Santa's Village and enjoyed a special lunch surrounded by my matriarchal womenfolk. Looking back, I see that it was a time of bonding, and our relationships only grew stronger. It was a special closeness – female, caring, and warm.

As Christmas draws near and the days fill with hurried shopping and festive preparations, let us remember to pause. In the midst of the noise and motion, make space for stillness, reflection, and quiet moments of introspection, for these are the gifts that carry the deepest meaning.

"And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled down for a long winter's nap" – from Clement Clarke Moore's "'Twas the Night Before Christmas/A Visit from St. Nicholas"

A Noble Train Across a Frozen Lake

This Week in Revolutionary War History

By Sam Bishop

This week in Revolutionary War history,

let's check up on what was going on 250 years ago in and around the colonial Province of Massachusetts Bay. Last week, smallpox continued to spread among the Continental Army, beginning to be taken seriously by those in command. Reports out of Boston show a startling reality, as refugees flee the city. Thousands are sick on both sides, just as Martha Washington arrives to winter with her husband. Colonel Henry Knox sent George Washington a list of artillery pieces in Ticonderoga that will soon be on the way to the outskirts of Boston.

On December 17, 1775, Knox writes to Washington from Fort George, New York. The colonel has made it down the long Lake George to the southern tip; using sleds! He says, "It is not easy to conceive the difficulties we have had in getting them over the lake owing to the advanced season of the year & contrary winds – three days ago it was very uncertain whether we could have gotten them over until next spring, but now please God they shall go."

He details the use of 42 sleds, pulled by oxen, leading thousands of pounds of artillery across the frozen lake. Also mentioning the difficulties ahead, he finishes, "I hope in 16 or 17 days to be able to present to your excellency a Noble Train of Artillery," the grandiose title being that often used even today to describe Knox's

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journey. He signs off the letter, saying, "There are some timid & some malevolent spirits who make this matter much worse – from the different accounts which I have been able to collect I have very little doubt that General Montgomery has Quebec now in his possession." Far from the truth.

At this time, around 1,200 Americans, led by Colonel Benedict Arnold and Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, are "dug in" outside Quebec City. Due to the frozen ground, they are not, however, able to dig trenches and to cover themselves or their artillery. They piled snow earthworks around themselves instead.

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The small size and insignificant number of cannons possessed by the Americans made a breach of the city's walls practically impossible. On December 17, the British destroyed two American cannons from the city, leading to a pullback of forces. Times were dire, and time is of the essence. When the Saint Lawrence thawed, British reinforcements would arrive. Washington received no updates from the northern front at this time, as Arnold and Montgomery planned their next move.

Also on December 17, Washington receives reports from spy Captain Richard Dodge that British supplies in Boston are extremely low. He says, "Sir I am credibly informed that the soldiers have nothing but the 4 pounds of pork & bread delt out to them." That's 4 pounds of pork per week. Not great. The next day, to add to that, the Continental Navy Captain John Manley of the schooner *Lee* captured the British supply ship *Betsey* before it arrived in Boston.

On December 19, Governor Nicholas Cooke of Rhode Island wrote to Washington, expressing fear of the island's capture. At the time, Rhode Island mainly referred to the island now called Aquidneck Island, with the colony's main population center and capital being the trading hub of Newport. The city was the fifth most populous city in the 13 Colonies and the second most

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populous in New England after Boston. Cooke wrote from the much better defensible Providence, saying, "Should the force sailed from Boston be destined for Rhode Island I tremble for the Consequences, as the colony in its present exhausted state cannot without assistance defend the island." Washington responded the next day, "I could not justify the sending of a regiment from these lines to you unless there was an apparent design of landing a body of ministerial troops on Rhode Island; at present, I do not think this is to be apprehended." The general knows the state of the men in Boston and knows they will not be mounting an amphibious invasion from the city any time soon.

On December 22, John Hancock of the Continental Congress writes to Washington. The siege of Boston has now lasted over six months, beginning the same day as the Battles of Lexington and Concord, April 19. That same day, Congress had passed a resolution giving Washington approval to assault the city. The resolution stated, "if General Washington and his council of war should be of opinion, that a successful attack may be made on the troops in Boston, he do it in any manner he may think expedient, notwithstanding the town and the property in it may thereby be destroyed." Hancock adds to the general personally, "You will notice the last resolution relative to an attack upon Boston, this passed after a most serious debate in a committee of the whole house, and the execution referred to you, and may God crown your attempt with success, I most heartily wish it, though individually I may be the greatest sufferer." He says that referring to the potential destruction of his property in the city.

Housing Developments Make Progress

Marion Select Board

By Sam Bishop

The Marion Select Board met on December 16 and, along with the public hearing for tree removal reported on last week, granted various Sewer Application Waivers.

At the beginning of the meeting, there was a public hearing for the removal of seven trees for the Marion Shared Use Bike Path's development. Tree #6 on the list, a black oak, was removed from the list and "spared" as developers found a way to maintain it. Its roots will remain unharmed, per local landscaper Steve Gonsalves. The plan also comes with guarantees by the state that, for every tree removed, two more will be provided, thereby guaranteeing the town 14 new trees. The state is also responsible for all costs in regards to removal.

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Following this, the board began a discussion on the ongoing Briggs housing development project off Spring Street. This night's talk was mainly focused on sewers and tie-ins. There were three main financial parts of the project. Select Board Vice Chair John Hoagland read the sewer project plan before the vote. For the property's 28 proposed units, there was a $10,000 per-unit cost, totaling $280,000. There's an additional $300 per bedroom in said units, to add up to $16,800 for 56 bedrooms across all units. There was an additional $88,200 flow charge totaling $385,000.

Along with this total, a capacity study will be conducted for $32,000 for a final total cost of $417,000. Per proposed dwelling unit, the cost would be about $14,892.86. The board agreed to grant a Sewer Application Waiver, as well as the additional study, with two votes, Chair Randy Parker and Vice Chair John Hoagland in favor and member Norm Hills abstaining, pushing the Briggs housing project further along in its long development.

Next was another Sewer Application Waiver request, this time for 340 Converse Road, where the request for a second quote was made by the board.

Following that, discussion moved to the conditional approval of the sewer project for the Toll Brothers Inc. development at 78 Wareham Road. It was initially discussed that Toll Brothers Inc. has not yet finalized their purchase of the property from previous developer Matthew Zuker. The company representative stated that, once they have received all necessary permits and desired guarantees from the town, they will finalize their purchase from Zuker.

Following a presentation, the board voted on the conditional approval of three different permit applications from Toll Brothers Inc. The board voted unanimously, in one vote, for the conditional approval of these three applications. The first was for private sewer extension on site, another for public sewer extension from Route 6, and another for a pump station.

The next meeting of the Marion Select Board will be held after the holiday season on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, in the Marion Police Department, 550 Mill Street.

Town Meeting, Election Dates Set

Mattapoisett Select Board

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Mattapoisett Select Board met on December 17 at Town Hall and approved aquaculture licenses but said there might be fewer licenses this year because weather the past year has made shell fishing more

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Baked Macaroni and Cheese
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Green Beans with Cranberries and Goat Cheese
Balsamic Glazed Roasted Veggies
Balsamic Glazed Asparagus Wrapped in Bacon
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difficult.

The board decided to waive the $200 fee this year because stormwater management has been an issue. Board members also said they have reached out to the state legislature and the federal Environmental Protection Agency to make shell fishing more accessible.

The board set Mattapoisett's Annual Town Meeting for Monday, May 11, and the Town Election for Tuesday, May 19. Board members have asked town departments to maintain a level budget and would like to meet sooner this year about planning for the Fiscal Year 2027.

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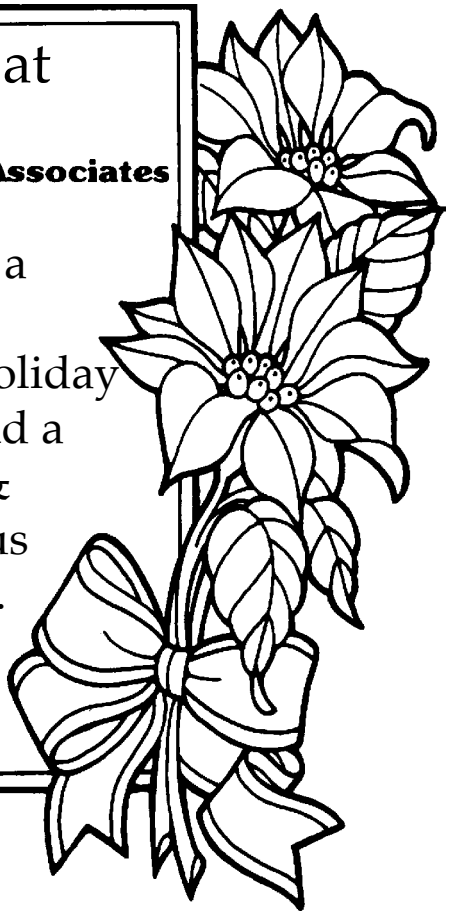

Last year, budget deliberations began in March. This year, they would like to meet with Police, Fire and Highway departments, as well as Water and Sewer budgets in February, considering those are the biggest budgets. Members noted that with the rise of health insurance costs, town officials are dealing with leaner budgets.

Eric LaBrode of East Coast Inflatables LLC on Industrial Drive has been selling boats for a while; however, he now needs a license because he plans on selling boats and boat trailers 14 feet in length. LaBrode says he now needs approval from the Select Board, which unanimously approved his license and applauded his business venture.

The board also made a handful of new appointments: Luke Mello to animal inspector, as well as Noah Motta, Zachary Ribas, Heather Lopes and Joshua Burgo as probationary firefighters.

Officials also discussed changes to the water management plan, revising it in accordance with state guidelines. The revised plan designates recreation areas as well as official uses of docks and piers. The board asked for a public-comment period before accepting the new plan.

Board members directed Marine Advisory Board Chairman Carlos DeSousa to highlight what is new with the plan, as opposed to the previous plan. The new document also details responsibilities of the harbormaster, police and other officials.

The board also discussed that an engineering firm reviewed Town Hall but noted that significant improvements need to be made, especially raising the building's elevation because it is in a velocity zone.

The town's Capital Planning Committee will hire a professional to determine costs for renovating the existing building versus building a new facility.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13.

Wharf Project Receives Conditioning

Mattapoisett Conservation Commission

By Marilou Newell

The long-awaited repairs to Long Wharf at Shipyard Park received conditioning on this night, December 22.

Coming before the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission remotely was Brian Post of Childs Engineering. The issue of flowable fill had previously been questioned by the commissioners, who pressed the engineering firm to come up with another solution. The Mattapoisett Marine Advisory Board has also been

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instrumental in working with Childs through many technical matters, and the type of fill to use has been a major issue. All agreed that pea-stone mix is a better material to use. Cost estimates can now be firmed up, as this piece of the construction puzzle has been locked in.

A draft of conditions will be prepared by the conservation agent and forwarded to the Childs team.

Continued were Notice of Intent applications filed by Nepo Reality LLC, Ned's Point Road, Lot 103 and Lot 104 for the construction of single-family homes.

Also continued until January 12 was a Notice of Intent filed by Deborah Chapman living trust, 0 Nashawena Road, for the reconstruction of a single-family home but not without considerable discussion. Abutters voiced concern over stormwater drainage. David Davignon of Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc. was asked to provide additional details on the possible installation of a swale to assist in water control.

The commission also granted a continuation until January 12 for a Notice of Intent filed by the town for the repair and reconstruction of the culvert located on Water Street.

Receiving a green light in terms of moving forward was a Notice of intent filed by Derek and Kylene

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Gregoire, 2 Goodspeed Island Road, for the construction of a single-family home.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, January 12.

Drainage Key to Pool Approval

Marion Conservation Commission

By Jeffrey D. Wagner

The Marion Conservation Commission met on December 17 in the Marion Police Station conference room and deliberated over a handful of routine matters connected to some additions and exterior home remodeling projects within wetlands buffer zone areas.

Derek Maksy, of Oakdale Avenue, received no opposition for construction of a deck and exterior stairs.

Applicants Leslie and Colin Veitch proposed construction of an addition and patio pool, as well as some tree removals on Autumn Lane. The applicant, per the project's engineer, said the removal of the trees would not occur within the wetlands or buffer areas.

Town Planner Doug Guey-Lee asked if yearly drainage of the pool could impact wetlands, but project representatives said a professional company would handle that so no drainage of pool water would seep into adjacent areas. Commission members approved the project but added the condition that no pool water shall be drained onto adjacent land.

Cederholm Nominee Trust proposed rebuilding an existing deck and using the same concrete footings on East Avenue.

Project representatives said the applicant has opted for better composite decking materials in line with the home's remodeling, which has included vinyl siding. Guey-Lee asked if the footings will be inspected to ensure safety of the new deck. Applicants said the footings are in good shape.

Thomas and Denise George-Beaudoin applied for an accessory garage on Allens Point Road. Applicant representatives said it will be a three-car garage with a second floor for storage and an exercise room. There will be a bathroom on the second floor as well. The project falls within a flood zone but will have footings to raise the elevation. Applicants said the grading change will be minimal.

The area is within an endangered species zone, but no issues were raised, according to Natural Heritage's program. There is an exemption within the state for existing paved areas, as long as there is no extension of paved areas, so no review will be necessary from Natural

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

As we wrap up the year, we'd like to thank you for your continued trust and support. Your kind feedback on our curated selections means so much to us, as each piece is thoughtfully chosen.

We're especially grateful for your support of our small local business, allowing us to do what we love and continue sharing thoughtful design. Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to creating more beautiful spaces together in the year ahead.

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Heritage, according to commissioners and applicants.

The next meeting of the Marion Conservation Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14 at 7:00 pm.

ORR Sweeps Swimming Opener

Sports Roundup

By Aiden Comorosky

Old Rochester Regional High School's boys and girls swim teams faced Brockton on December 18 for their first meet of the season, and both of the Bulldogs' teams won. Kate Young was named a swimmer of the meet, in which she swam the 50 freestyle with a time of 30.47 seconds. On the boys side, Lazaro Rosa made sectionals in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:01.79 and was also named a swimmer of the meet. Jacob Iappini qualified for the state meet in the 50 freestyle with a time of 23.42 seconds. ORR's next meet will be at Bishop Stang on Monday, January 12.

Boys Basketball

The Bulldogs played at Apponequet on December 16 and won, 66-54. Grady Oliveira was named the player of the game, scoring 25 points and making 5 steals, while Brody Hiles added 16 points of his own. The Bulldogs took a 2-1 record into Tuesday's home game against Bishop Stang.

Girls Basketball

Old Rochester hosted Seekonk on December 19 and won, 58-32. Sadie Hartley-Matteson scored 20 points, Sydney Bosma had 10, and Hannah Thorell had 9. The Bulldogs move to 2-1 on the season and will play Cohasset on Saturday, January 3.

Copy Submission Policy

The Wanderer gladly accepts any and all news and press release items from local nonprofit organizations for publication on a weekly basis. The deadline for submission of news items is Monday at noon for publication in that week's edition. Due to the increasing number of submissions; however, publication of press material is never guaranteed. *The Wanderer* will make every effort to publish timely news items and announcements as the subject warrants and as often as spacing allows. All press material must be submitted by email to news@wanderer.com and must be either in a text or Word file. We are not able to retype, correct or hunt down information to repair incomplete press releases, and we are not able to retype or reformat posters or bulleted lists that are not in readable paragraph form. We cannot accept any handwritten material or news items via telephone, no matter how brief.

Photographs of area events and newsmakers are also accepted and encouraged. *The Wanderer* accepts well-lit and clearly defined photographs for publication provided that they include a brief summary of the event or subject. We cannot return photographs. Like news items, the deadline for photos is Monday at noon, and the publication of photographs is also subject to spacing constraints and cannot be guaranteed.

All submitted copy is subject to alterations and/or condensation as space allows at the editor's discretion. All submissions become the property of *The Wanderer* and are assumed to be submitted for the purpose of publication. Submissions cannot be returned; therefore, please make sure to retain copies.

Poems and essays submitted for publication are subject to *The Wanderer's* Copy Submissions and Letters to the Editor policies.

Ideas for features, breaking news tips and other suggestions for the news department are welcome. Please call the News Editor with news tips and ideas at 508-758-9055. If it is after hours, please leave a message or email news@wanderer.com.

Coastline Elderly Nutrition Program

Monday, December 29: Chicken Anna Maria, roasted potatoes, green peas, wheat roll, and peach cup.

Tuesday, December 30: American chop suey, whole grain pasta, vegetable medley, wheat bread, and cinnamon apples.

Wednesday, Dec 31: Black eyed peas, beets & greens, cornbread loaf, pound cake, diet: fruit.

Thursday, January 1: Holiday – no meals served.

Friday, January 2: Shepard's pie with mashed potato, corn and peas, green beans, whole grain biscuit, and applesauce.

Academic Achievements

Calder Eaton, Mattapoisett local, was among over half of Belmont University's undergraduate students named to the fall 2025 semester Dean's List. Approximately 55% of the university's 6,934

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undergraduate students qualified this semester.

OHS Fourth-Grader Wins Feinstein Foundation Golden Ticket

Superintendent Michael S. Nelson and Principal Stephanie Wells are pleased to share that Old Hammondtown School fourth-grader Ayda Medeiros was recently selected as a Feinstein Foundation Golden Ticket winner.

The ticket earned Old Hammondtown School a $2,000 grant and an additional $500 for Ayda to donate to a charity of her choice.

Ayda, a student in Beth Valliere's class, chose to donate her prize to Globe Santa, a nonprofit program run by The Boston Globe that provides toys and books to children in need during the holiday season.

"I sincerely thank the Feinstein Foundation for their commitment to teaching the younger generation the importance of kindness and compassion," said Principal Wells. "Their generous donations enable students to give back to the community through a charity that reflects their own values, and I'm proud that Ayda has decided to spread holiday cheer to children in need."

Superintendent Nelson congratulated Ayda on being selected and thanked the Feinstein Foundation for its continued partnership with schools.

"This program gives students a real opportunity to connect kindness with action," said Superintendent Nelson. "Ayda's decision to support Globe Santa shows compassion and generosity, and we are grateful to the Feinstein Foundation for making experiences like this possible for our students."

Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship

The Mattapoisett Lions Club, a member of Lions International, the world's largest service club organization consisting of 46,000 clubs and more than 1,400,000 members worldwide, is pleased to announce the availability of TWO (2) - $2,000 scholarships to be awarded this year to a graduating high school senior or home-schooled student residing in Mattapoisett, Marion, or Rochester or a school-choice student attending Old Rochester Regional High School. In addition, we are pleased to announce the availability of one (1) $1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who will be entering the trades and attending an accredited trade school OR tool reimbursement of up to $1,000 with proof of purchase to a graduating senior who will directly be entering the trades with an apprenticeship agreement.

The funds for the Peter Hodges Memorial Scholarship are raised through fundraisers held by the Mattapoisett Lions Club throughout the year, including Harbor Days, an annual Arts and Craft Festival held in Shipyard Park, Mattapoisett every third weekend of July.

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The Lions Club motto is "We Serve," one of the largest charitable causes of Lions International includes raising funds for eye research in an effort to end preventable blindness throughout the world, eradicating measles worldwide in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and here at home providing services for those in need in our communities.

To obtain an application, learn more about this award or to learn how to become a member of the Lions Club, visit our website, www.mattapoisettlionsclub.org. Award applications are also available through the guidance department at your high school.

Applications must be received by **March 28**.

Moby-Dick Marathon

The 30th Annual Moby-Dick Marathon will be taking place **January 3 to 4** at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. This beloved tradition is one of the museum's most anticipated events of the year with distinguished guests reading aloud from the iconic narrative. Mattapoisett resident East End Eddie Doherty will be reading on January 4 at 6:40 am in the Cook Memorial Theatre. The author and retired clerk-magistrate will help bring Melville's masterpiece to life as three decades of this literary marathon are celebrated. These voices will help keep this tradition vibrant and meaningful – a fitting tribute to Herman Melville and the spirit of New Bedford. Admission is free until Sunday at 1:00 pm.

Machacam Club

The next meeting of the Machacam Club is scheduled for Wednesday, **January 7**. We meet at the American Legion Hall on Depot Street, Mattapoisett. Social time begins at 5:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. Our speaker will be introduced at 6:40 pm. Chef Colby is planning another satisfying meal. Callers, please send your counts by 9:00 pm Monday, January 5, 2026. Please submit inquiries to cwmccullough@comcast.net.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society

By Connie Eshbach

When future historians look back on today, they may well call this "the age of the screen." Certainly, our screens have made life easier in many ways, but we've

Tri-town Police Logs

MARION
Log highlights Dec 14 – Dec 20

- Wareham Rd – Road hazard
- Rose Cottage Ln – Missing person
- Point Rd – Disorderly person
- Piney Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Mill St - Disturbance
- Village Dr – Officer wanted
- Holly Rd – MV collision
- Spring St – General service
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Mill St – Larceny/past
- Spring St – MV collision
- Barnabas Rd – Found property
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- County Rd – Noise complaint
- Wareham Rd – EMS/medical
- Front St – General service
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Spring St – Suspicious activity
- Mill St – Suspicious activity
- Delano Rd – EMS/medical
- Wareham Rd – Follow up
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
- Allen's Point Rd – Burglar alarm
- Register Rd – General service
- Vine St – General service
- Holmes St – Suspicious person
- County Rd – Officer wanted
- Front St – EMS/medical

MATTAPOISETT
Log highlights Dec 14 – Dec 20

- Acushnet Rd – Assist other agency
- 911 Crook's Way – Calls for fire
- Wolf Island Rd – Suspicious MV
- County Rd - Assault
- Oliver's Ln – Health/welfare
- Nantucket Dr – MV crash
- Coopers Way – Animal control
- Fairhaven Rd – Disabled MV
- North St – MV crash
- Marion Rd – General service
- Fairhaven Rd – MV violations
- County Rd – Suspicious persons
- Park Pl – Animal control
- I195 East – Assist other agency
- Holly Woods Rd – MV crash
- Fairhaven Rd – MV crash
- Highland View Ave – 911 call
- Driscoll Ln – Medical assist
- Ocean View Ave – 911 call
- Water St - Disturbance
- Prospect Rd – MV crash
- Wildwood Ter – General service
- Reservation Rd – General service
- Hillside Ave – Follow up
- Hillside Ave – Officer wanted
- Angelica Ave – Suspicious persons
- Water St – MV violations
- Acushnet Rd – Ambulance request
- Marion Rd – MV violations

ROCHESTER
Log highlights Dec 14 – Dec 20

- Ryder Rd – Suspicious activity
- Willow Dr – Well-being-check
- Marys Pond Rd – MV collision
- Ginny's Dr - Fraud
- New Bedford Rd – MV collision
- Briarwood Ln – Well-being check
- Neck Rd – MV collision
- High St – General service
- Hartley Rd – Medical alarm
- County Rd - Medical
- North Ave – Animal control
- Bennett Rd – 911 call
- Marion Rd – Outside fire
- New Bedford Rd – Burglar alarm
- Mattapoisett Rd – Animal control
- Cranberry Hwy – MV collision
- Dexter ln – Firearm licensing
- Cranberry Hwy - Investigation
- Neck Rd – Animal control
- Walnut Plain Rd – Well-being check
- North Ave - Medical
- North Ave – Burglar alarm
- Cranberry Hwy – Road hazard
- Neck Rd – Road hazard
- North Ave – MV collision
- North Ave - Threats
- Cross Rd – Noise complaint
- North Ave - Vandalism
- Comstock Pl – Suspicious activity

For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.

also lost a sense of an actual shared community. On one hand, it's easier to watch even new movies on our home screens, but that means we may never experience that moment during a scary movie when the whole theater gasps as one or sighs together during a romantic interlude of a love story.

One of the great things about belonging to the Rochester (or any) Historical Society is the chance to step back to the days of joining together to sing carols, tell stories brought to mind by the songs, eat Christmas cookies and enjoy a sense of community. Those who attended our holiday organ concert on December 14 were able to do just that on a day that even came with snow.

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Sheila Perry played our Vocalion organ, and Tom Perry led the group in singing along to well-loved carols.

Mack Phinney, who attended the East Rochester Congregational Church (now our museum), remembered practicing "Away in a Manger" in the church basement and then performing with the other children during the Christmas service. At the end of the night, Santa Claus arrived with a small gift for each child. He said that it wasn't until much later that he realized Santa had been his own father. Good job, Santa.

I have to confess that I was in junior high before I got the joke inherent in the line, "If Daddy had only

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Local Cable Programming

Check www.orctv.org for the latest updates to the schedule.

PUBLIC ACCESS
Comcast Channel 9
Verizon Channel 36

Thursday December 25, 2025
Christmas Programming

Friday December 26, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Southcoast Matters
11:30 AM Fall Family Fun Day
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Rochester Affordable Housing Inc ADU Presentation
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
3:30 PM The Collective Chat
3:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
3:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Doug Crocker
5:00 PM Tri-Town Veterans Day Events
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM A Conversation With…
9:30 PM Fur, Fins and Feathers
10:00 PM For Your Health
10:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Saturday December 27, 2025
6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
9:30 AM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
11:00 AM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
11:30 AM Fall Family Fun Day
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
2:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
2:30 PM The Human Truth - with Chuck McIntyre
3:00 PM The Collective Chat
3:30 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
4:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Doug Crocker
5:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - 100 Years of the H12 with Halsey Herreshoff
6:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Sea Turtles in Massachusetts
7:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
8:30 PM Paltrocast - with Darren Paltrowitz
9:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 PM A Conversation with…
10:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
10:30 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday December 28, 2025
7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St Gabriel's Church
11:00 AM Tri-Town Veteran's Day Events
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
1:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
2:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Shift
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
4:00 PM Miss New Bedford
5:00 PM Putnam Murdock Concert at the Marion Art Center
7:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Apponequet
8:00 PM ORR Football Thanksgiving Game vs Apponequet
10:00 PM ORR Homecoming Pep Rally
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday December 29, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow Today
9:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Global US
9:30 AM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
10:00 AM Deutsche Welle - Shift
10:30 AM A Conversation With…
11:00 AM For Your Health
11:30 AM Money Matters
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters
2:30 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
3:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
3:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
4:30 PM The Human Truth
5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
6:30 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
7:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Women's Involvement in the History of Preservation in New England
8:30 PM Marion Natural History Museum - The Early Life of Humpback Whales
9:30 PM The Collective Chat
10:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
10:30 PM AMC Outdoor Journey Fund
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Tuesday December 30, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM For Your Health: Stress
8:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
10:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
10:30 AM The Collective Chat
11:00 AM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM Point Road Park Renaming Ceremony
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
4:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus On Europe
4:30 PM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
5:00 PM Four Deep Sports Talk
6:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - 100 years of the Herreshoff H-12
8:00 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Classic Movie

Wednesday December 31, 2025
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Cape Conversations
8:30 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
10:30 AM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
2:00 PM Marion Veg - with Barbie Burr and Brooke Johnson
2:30 PM Money Talk Tuesday
3:00 PM A Conversation With…
3:30 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Fairhaven
5:30 PM Beacon Hill Report
6:00 PM Building the Future
6:30 PM Pete on the Street
7:00 PM World Fusion Show
7:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Power and Glory
9:00 PM Teach your Home Energy Costs! With David Green
10:30 PM Mattapoisett Women's Club Speaker Series - Jack Matthews
11:00 PM Classic Movies

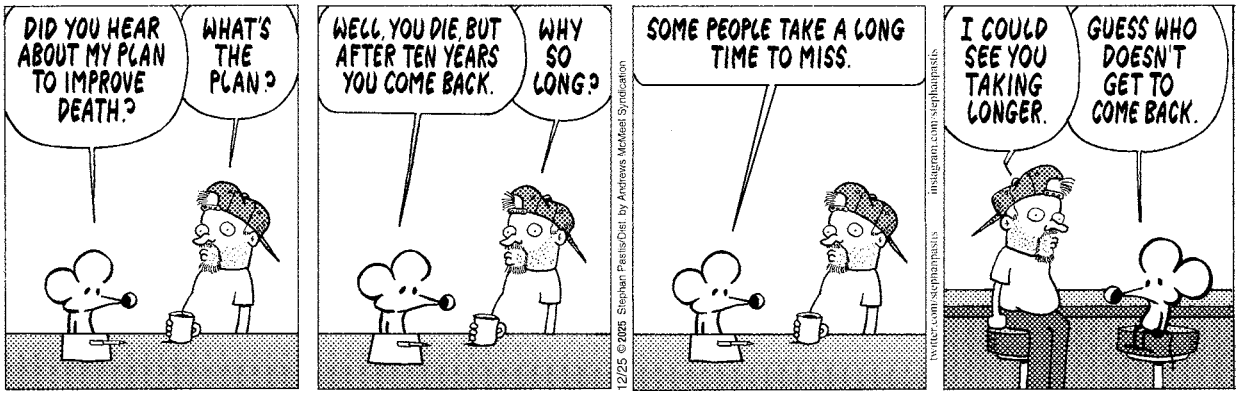
MARION GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 39
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
9:00 AM Marion Conservation Commission
10:00 AM Marion Planning Board
11:00 AM Marion Water and Sewer
1:00 PM Marion School Committee
2:30 PM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
3:00 PM Marion Affordable Housing Committee
4:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
5:30 PM Marion Finance Committee
6:00 PM Marion Board of Health
6:30 PM Marion Board of Selectmen
8:30 PM Marion Conservation Commission
9:30 PM Marion Planning Board
11:30 PM Marion Water and Sewer

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 40
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
8:00 AM Rochester Planning Board
9:30 AM ORR School Committee
10:30 AM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
12:30 AM Rochester Conservation Commission
1:30 PM Rochester School Committee
3:30 PM ORR Joint School Committee
5:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
6:00 PM Rochester Planning Board
7:30 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
8:30 PM Rochester School Committee
10:30 PM ORR School Committee
11:30 PM Rochester Planning Board

EDUCATION CHANNEL
Comcast Channel 8
Verizon Channel 37
Daily Schedule
7:00 AM Bulldog Weekly
7:30 AM Bulldog Sports
9:00 AM ORR Winter Concert
10:30 AM Old Hammondtown Winter Concert
11:00 AM RMS Winter Concert
12:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
12:30 PM Bulldog Sports
1:30 PM ORR Football Thanksgiving Game vs Apponequet
3:30 PM ORR Unified Basketball vs Bourne
4:30 PM ORR Boys Soccer vs Somerset Berkley
6:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
6:30 PM ORR Class Olympics
7:30 PM ORR Boys Hockey vs Plymouth South
9:00 PM ORR Girls Basketball vs Bourne
10:30 PM ORR Senior Superlatives
11:30 PM ORR Winter Concert

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 38

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis



known that Mommy was kissing Santa Claus." I was always a believer, and in later years when one of my third graders sidled up to say that he thought he was the only one in the class who believed in Santa Claus, I was able to reassure him that he was not alone. I too believed.

Best Wishes for a happy holiday season, and may Santa Claus be good to you.

Forest Bathing

Sippican Land Trust will host Forest Bathing with Forest Therapy Guide Diane Pienta on Saturday, January 3, at 10:00 am at the Osprey Marsh, Point Road in Marion.

Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin Yoku to mitigate stress of modern-day life, this guided experience offers the opportunity to interact with Nature in a way that invites a deeper connection with the land and ourselves.

"Forest Therapy broadly means taking in, in all of one's senses, Nature's atmosphere. Not simply a walk in the woods, it is the conscious and contemplative practice of being immersed in the sights, sound, smells and space of the forest. Of being in a deep relationship with the Earth Herself."

Diane is a certified Forest Therapy guide and is passionate about connecting people and the land. She has guided numerous walks for private groups as well as larger institutions.

The event is limited to 10 participants. To register or for more information, visit our website: Sippicanlandstrust.org.

Elizabeth Taber Library

Kids of all ages and their caregivers can ring in the New Year at noon on Wednesday, **December 31**. Join us between 11:00 am and noon for crafts, snacks, and even a bubble-wrap dance floor. Then we'll count down to noon.

The Banned Book Club will be discussing John Berendt's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, **January 6**. Check out a copy at the circulation desk today.

Kids looking to practice their storytelling skills are invited to join our creative writing club. This club, designed for students in grades 1-6, will meet on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 3:00 pm. Our first meeting is on Monday, **January 12**. Each meeting will include a prompt and discussion about an element of creative writing, free writing time, and time to share our writing with others. Registration is required for this program – please register online at elizabethtaberlibrary.org.

The start of the new year is a great time to start a new habit. Adults ages 18 and over are invited to join us to make your own reading tracker on Tuesday, **January 13** between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm.

The Cozy Cup Book Club will be reading Vera Wong's "Guide to Snooping (on a dead man)" in January. The club meets on **January 14** and **January 28**. Check out a copy at the circulation desk and attend one or both meetings. As always, coffee and tea are provided.

Christmas Day Swim

Please join us for a fun family tradition that helps those in need. Helping Hands and Hooves will host the 22nd annual **Christmas Day** Swim at 11:00 am at Mattapoisett Town Beach.

Each swimmer is asked to donate $20 (payable on the day of the swim). The first 75 swimmers will receive a festive long-sleeved T-shirt. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Helping Hands and Hooves, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit based in Mattapoisett dedicated to providing therapeutic horseback riding lessons for adults with disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about Helping Hands and Hooves, please go to our website: helpinghandsandhooves.org. If you have any questions, please call Debbi Dyson at 508-758-4717 or email info@helpinghandsandhooves.org.

Accessory Dwelling Unit Presentation

There will be an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Presentation on Wednesday, **January 7** at 5:30 p.m. at the Marion Council on Aging presented by Buz Artiano will be here along with Bob Grillo, Marion Building Commissioner.

You Will Learn: What is an ADU? What goes into making an ADU? Who is an ADU for? What can YOU build? What are the ADU laws? There will also be

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Year in Review

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com

This wasn't a great year any way you slice it. In the realm of movies, we began 2025 by losing David Lynch, and have now ended it (well, there are ten days to go as I write this) with the loss of Rob Reiner. They weren't much alike, and in some ways they represent the two poles of American filmmaking: the artist and the entertainer, the disturber and the comforter. Yet the gentle Lynch who made *The Straight Story* could have directed Reiner's *Stand by Me* (this and Lynch's *Blue Velvet* stood shoulder to shoulder in the fall of 1986 with tales of wounded innocence, dark secrets and demonic adversaries), and some of Reiner's comedies packed Lynchian bits of absurdity, particularly *This Is Spinal Tap.*

Both men, I like to think, would have been cheered up by the success of *Sinners,* the one extreme outlier on 2025's top ten box office list, the only one that wasn't a sequel or derived in some way from previously popular media. *Sinners,* the first hard-R horror film on the top-ten chart since 2019's *It: Chapter 2* (and even that was a sequel), broke a lot of Hollywood rules and validated that old line I always haul out in these year-end columns, William Goldman's "Nobody knows anything." That wisdom was further borne out by the appearance of two Marvel movies on the low end of the domestic-gross list, #8 and #10, and *Captain America* might still get bumped down by *Avatar 3*. (*Thunderbolts* stalled at #12.) *Superman* at #3 was super, thanks for asking.

Marvel has only two films in the can for 2026, but they're biggies — a new *Spider-Man* (through Sony) and a new *Avengers* featuring Doctor Doom. Disney isn't particularly sweating; they also have a *Mandalorian* film and another *Toy Story* and a live-action *Moana.* In other words, more of the same reliable stuff. There's also *Supergirl,* which looks exciting and interesting judging from the specific comic it's based on. Question is, will 2026 be as much of a blessing to horror fans as 2025 was? *Sinners* led the charge, and a lot of smaller films (like *Weapons*) cleaned up in relation to their lower budgets. The problem with surprise successes like *Sinners* and *Weapons* is that nobody sees them coming. A glance at 2026's release schedule yields a lot of titles that could be blockbusters or duds. Nobody knows anything.

Let's see, what else? Dad movies appear to be DOA: Tom Cruise's valedictory *Mission Impossible* and Brad Pitt's *F1* finished below the top ten and were saved from disaster only by foreign grosses. *Mission Impossible* cost anywhere from $300 to $400 million. And they crucified Michael Cimino. (By the way, adjusted for inflation, Cimino's notorious *Heaven's Gate* would cost about $173 million today.) Aside from that one exception, the breadwinners of 2025 were, as usual, pitched at the kiddies and teens. Even *One Battle After Another,* which you might think had Leonardo insurance in its pocket, straggled in at #30. It's easily writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson's biggest hit, but far from DiCaprio's, of course.

Well, *One Battle After Another,* along with That One Exception, represent two sides of the same Hollywood auteurist coin. It's still possible to build a work of art and vision and get major studios (Warner, in both cases here) to foot the (fairly big) bill. These two films, for me, are in a fight for first place of the year. They're both terrific entertainment, realized with the craft and rigor of true creative power. The underdog of the year is *Sovereign,* containing peak Nick Offerman, with grateful nods to *Train Dreams, Eephus, The Long Walk, The Life of Chuck, Caught Stealing, Companion, Highest 2 Lowest, Die My Love, Good Fortune* (I was happily surprised to see this on Obama's year-end list), parts of *The Shrouds,* and *Wake Up Dead Man.* There are, of course, many fine films I missed, and hope to catch up with.

So it wasn't a head-to-toe terrible year for movies, not with that roster (and add any of your own 2025 favorites — and some awards contenders, of course, haven't made their way out past the big cities yet). And at least the bright idea to put 100% tariffs on movies filmed outside the United States was more or less received as the foolishness it was (who'd pay the tariff? AMC? Netflix? Margaret Qualley?). Here's to 2026, which will mark the 30th year I've been writing for *the Wanderer* (and 40 years since I started reviewing for my high-school paper). Let's hope we don't lose any more filmmakers like Lynch and Reiner, and let's hope for those one or two surprises that keep us movie-lovers going.

a question-and-answer period, light refreshments will be served.

Friends of the Mattapoisett Library

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library's recent Annual Jewelry and Accessory sale was a tremendous success thanks to the community's support and generosity.

Thank you to all who donated items, volunteered their time, and made purchases at this year's jewelry sale; the 2nd Silent Auction was particularly successful. 100% of the sale proceeds will support library programs for children, teens, and adults, including the purchase of museum, zoo, and park passes.

In preparation for next December's sale, the Friends will continue to accept new and gently used donations of jewelry and fashion accessories such as scarves, gloves, purses, hats, sunglasses, wallets, and keychains throughout the upcoming year. Please drop off your donations at the Mattapoisett Library circulation desk. Everyone's generosity supports the library.

Again, thank you. We hope to see you in January at our next Used Book Sale on Saturday, **January 10**, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Open Table Is Back

Mattapoisett Congregational Church is very excited to announce that Open Table is back with 3 dinners planned for **January 9, February 27,** and **March 13** (weather permitting), so be sure to mark your calendar now. The OT crew hopes to see you on January 9 for the first of 3 delicious meals served in Reynard Hall at Mattapoisett Congregational Church, 27 Church Street, Mattapoisett. There is no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted. Doors open at 4:30 pm and supper will be served at 5:00 pm. Invite a friend or neighbor. All are welcome.

Call for Entries for the Winter Members' Show

The Marion Art Center announces a call for entries for the Winter Members' Show opening **January 10** with a reception from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The show runs through February 6. All members may enter a piece. Works must be original, must have been executed by the artist within the last five years, and must not have been previously shown at the Marion Art Center. The MAC will not exhibit works that are in poor condition (including frame) or are not properly prepared for easy installation.

To exhibit, members should drop off artwork

Super Crossword

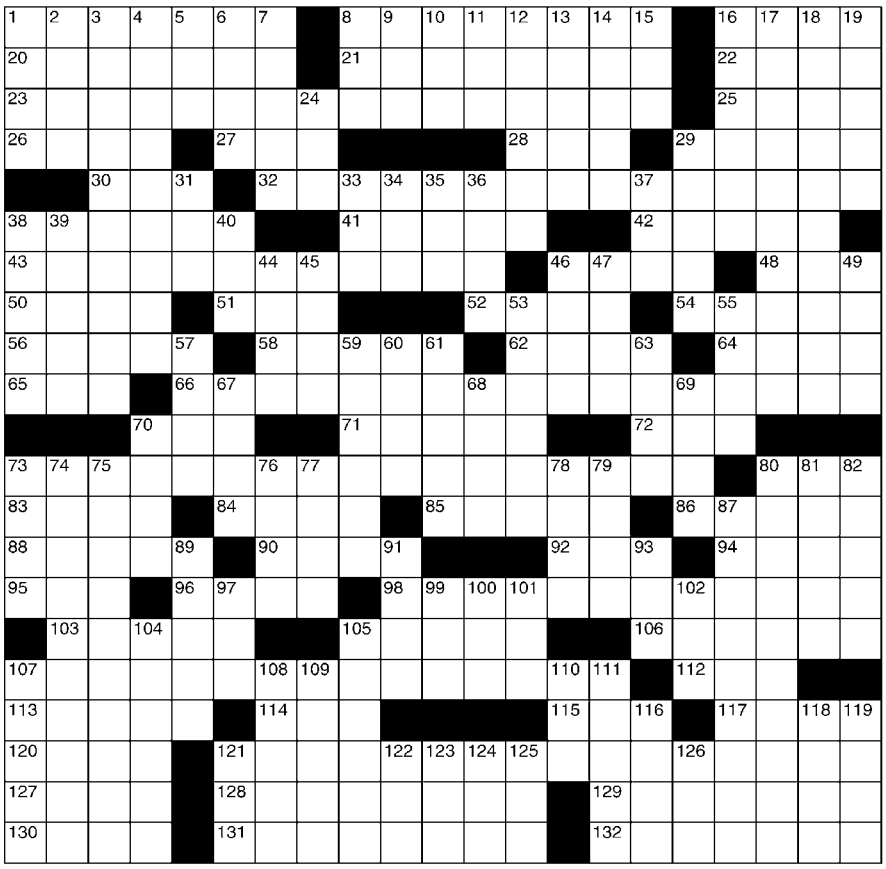
UNIVERSITY SUBSTITUTES

ACROSS

1 Small, sticky sheets
8 Sentimental souvenir
16 Bit of aquatic flora
20 In hitting position, in baseball
21 Haphazardly
22 Ringing thing
23 Providence university founded to educate Dracula?
25 Not phony
26 Auld lang —
27 Wed. preceder
28 Stale
29 Passover bread
30 Pixieish type
32 Nicer than a Madison university?
38 Actress Anderson
41 Jeans, e.g.
42 Ridden horse
43 Located on a Somerville university's campus?
46 Pooh or Yogi
48 Encyclopedia unit: Abbr.
50 Clueless
51 Cruise of film
52 Mine metals
54 Baseball Hall of Famer Tony
56 Some Siouan people
58 Shakur of hip-hop
62 LAX stats
64 Little — ("Hairspray" girl)
65 Certain till bill
66 Title of a picture album featuring an Atlanta university?
70 Paella veggie
71 Singer Abdul
72 Org. offering tows
73 Inadequate leader of a Durham university?
80 Easter meat
83 Santa — (desert winds)
84 Tart garnish
85 Italian actress Sophia
86 NFL coach Don or Mike
88 Fort Knox bar
90 — deck (cruise ship part)
92 Cup edge
94 Actress Lena
95 Loud noise
96 Mega melee
98 Unable to escape from a New York university?
103 Routine
105 Animals of a region
106 Pretenses
107 Houston university attended for four complete years?
112 Tattoo fluid
113 Make ecstatic
114 "Way cool!"
115 Tazo drink
117 "Intolerance" star Lillian
120 TV imp Simpson
121 Leave a New Haven university with no exit fee?
127 Kin of -trix
128 Able to do no wrong
129 Swiveled
130 Big name in private jets
131 Used a sieve on
132 Partner of Hutch

DOWN

1 Alehouses
2 Nashville's Grand Ole —
3 Wall builder, e.g.
4 Moist wipe
5 "Son of," in Arabic names
6 Successor of Roosevelt
7 Malty brew
8 Kit — bar
9 Biblical verb ending
10 Sooner than, in verse
11 — -Man (arcade game)
12 Hair nets
13 Past puberty
14 Organizing expert Marie
15 First-aid pro
16 Chafe
17 Golf great called "The Merry Mex"
18 Like many a bored person's eyes
19 Permit
24 Early car inits.
29 Subway system
31 Winter woe
33 Mil. missions
34 Fissure
35 The Yoko of "Dear Yoko"
36 "Beetle Bailey" dog
37 Troop gp.
38 Plane flier
39 "La, — to follow so"
40 Sternward
44 Dog in Oz
45 X-rated stuff
46 Actress Mary — Hurt
47 Actor Morales
49 Like loafers
53 Fix
55 Peru's capital
57 Went swiftly
59 Burst open, as corn
60 Lab gel
61 Very mean
63 Eye carefully
67 Lug
68 In addition
69 Gobbles up
70 Cali currency
73 Installed, as carpet
74 Totally wipe out
75 Document of English liberties
76 Metric mass, in brief
77 Give forth
78 Nixing mark
79 City in Oklahoma
80 Hawaiian dancers' garments
81 Wonderland girl
82 Long, thick heads of hair
87 Wishing to receive
89 Stale
91 Royal name of Norway
93 Sow or boar
97 Figure skater Midori
99 Arles assent
100 Wolf Blitzer's channel
101 Chiang — -shek
102 Rapa — (Easter Island)
104 No longer ill
105 Hat for Frank Sinatra
107 Mutinous sort
108 Former senator Lott
109 Spiteful sort
110 Home for a 93-Down
111 Messy stacks
116 Dismounted
118 Search for
119 Lamarr of "Algiers"
121 Mil. enlistees
122 Mentalist Geller
123 Khaki cousin
124 Certain till bill
125 Bouquets-to-order co.
126 Mendes of "Hitch"



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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An old adversary wants to make amends over the Christmas holiday. The decision is yours. But wouldn't it be nice to share the upcoming new year with another friend?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) As news of your work gets around, expect to receive a special holiday "gift" from influential contacts who could help you launch your new projects in the new year.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Instead of fussing over what you didn't do to prepare for the holidays, relax and enjoy the kudos for a job truly well done. A happy surprise awaits you early next year.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The best way to shake off lingering holiday blues is to join loved ones in the fun and festivities of this special time. A confusing situation starts to make sense in upcoming weeks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Special emotional rewards mark this holiday time for LEOs and LEOnas who are able to open up to new relationships and the possibilities they offer in the upcoming year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your efforts to make the holidays especially memorable for some people will be rewarded in some unexpected (but very welcome) ways in the upcoming year.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Be assured that your efforts to make this holiday special for everyone won't go unnoticed by those who could make some important changes in your life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Lots of folks want you to light up their holiday parties. But try to take some quiet time 'twixt those glittering galas to spend with some very special people.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) While the current round of holiday revels has your social life on the fast track, someone special might want to keep pace with you next year as well.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Enjoy all the fun you deserve at this holiday time. However, don't lose sight of the need to check out some of the changes the new year is expected to bring.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) What happens during this holiday time can help clear up some of the confusion jeopardizing a once-stable relationship. Follow your instincts on what to do next.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your holidays are brightened by new friends eager to become part of your life. But don't forget to spend time with that one special person. (You know who.)

BORN THIS WEEK: You have the ability to encourage people to reach their potential by setting an example with your own efforts.

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at the MAC at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion, on Saturday, January 3 between 10:00 am to 2:00 pm or Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Artists may download and print the consignment agreement ahead of time, found online at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit. Anyone wishing to participate who is not yet a member can join online any time at marionartcenter.org/join. More information can be found at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit.

Local Teens Request Warm Weather Donations for Veterans

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) requests your help collecting NEW hats, gloves, and scarves through **January 11**.

TAB recognizes that winter can be especially difficult for veterans, so our members have teamed up with The Veterans Transition House in New Bedford to help. Your donations of NEW hats, gloves, and scarves will offer much-needed warmth and comfort to those who've served our country. Please drop off your contributions in the boxes at the Mattapoisett Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett by January 11.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lawrence, Adult Services Librarian, at ALawrence@sailsinc.org or call the library at 508-758-4171.

Thank you for your support and compassion for our veterans. The Teen Advisory Board and The Veterans Transition House truly appreciate your kindness.

Marion Art Center Auditions

The MAC is auditioning actors for the comedy, The 39 Steps, adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan. The play will be directed by John Heavey. The auditions will be held at the MAC's Anne Braitmayer Webb Theater located at 80 Pleasant St., Marion, MA on Saturday, **January 3** from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and on Sunday, **January 4** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. There are nine performance dates: March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. Evening shows are at 7:30 pm, and Sunday matinees are at 2:00 pm.

The 39 Steps is a fast-paced, slapstick comedy thriller where an ordinary man, Richard Hannay, is framed for murder and must go on the run to stop a spy ring from stealing vital British military secrets. The humor derives from the entire story being performed by a small cast who play over 150 characters, often making rapid costume and character changes. One actor plays the hero, Richard Hannay; an actress plays the three women with whom he has romantic entanglements; other actors play every other character in the show, each occasionally playing multiple characters at once. Thus, Alfred Hitchcock film's serious spy story is given a comedic, zany twist.

Although The 39 Steps was originally produced with just four actors, the MAC production's casting will be flexible with regard to gender and doubling or even tripling of roles. The two exceptions are that Hannay will be played by one man throughout and Pamela and Annabella will be played by a single woman. Auditions will be cold readings from selected scenes of the script. In casting we are looking for versatile performers with a rich imagination who can make bold, physical choices. Find the full character list, along with more information, at marionartcenter.org/auditions.

Ramps For The Holidays

Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity (BBAHFH) is seeking metal wheelchair ramp donations and support for their Ramp Donation Program. According to Executive Director Christine Lacourse, "We have currently helped 26 families with ramps this year with the community's support. We have three more families that need our help before the end of the year, but we are out of inventory. We need to raise $10,000 to buy 3 (or more) used ramps for Joanne, Nancy, and Lorraine, so that we

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TriTown Happenings

A beautiful moment at Ned's Point. Photo by Amy Laurendeau

Snowy Ned's Point. Photo by Ellen Scholter

Photograph by Jennifer Shepley

The shores of Pico Beach. Photo by Ruth A. Griffin

Ned's Point has its first snowfall of the season. Photo by Rob Grant

The Marion Natural History Museum's afterschool group had a wonderful time on December 17 using recycled and natural materials for gift giving. We made snow globes, bird feeders, shell ornaments, and more! We also enjoyed snacks and having fun visiting with friends. The museum wishes to thank all the terrific volunteers that came out to help. Happy Holidays from the museum and see you soon. Photos courtesy Elizabeth Leidhold

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

can help change their world, and we are hoping for strong year-end support. Imagine, each tax-deductible gift will give someone the ability to stay or return home for the holidays."

"There are many reasons why someone might need a ramp, from a simple broken leg to a chronic disease like multiple sclerosis to cancer," explained Lacourse. "Many of our ramp recipients have been healthy all their lives but now in their senior years, need a walker, or are in a wheelchair. What a difference a ramp makes for an individual and their family. It literally gives someone freedom, independence, and the ability to Age-in-Place."

Ramp recipients have ranged in age from teenagers to those in their nineties. As one recipient's daughter enthused after her mother in her eighties got a ramp, "We are absolutely thrilled.... The ramp was installed today, and my mother had a doctor's appointment at 2:30 pm and she did not have to hold on for dear life going down the stairs, while 10-out-of-10 pain went down her hip. She just used her cane and held the railing and smoothly went down the ramp. And my Dad's hip is not in excruciating pain from going down and up the stairs. And the men who came and installed it were wonderful."

According to Janice, another recent ramp recipient who is 86 years old, "It made me feel alive. Really and truly. I don't have to lift my legs that I can't lift. I used to have to cling to the rail to get up, then lift my legs three times because I had three big steps, and now I can run up it. A flock of angels put it up. All gentlemen and very nice."

In 2024, BBAHFH formally introduced the Ramp Donation program giving low-income homeowners the accessibility they need to remain safe in their homes. Through ramp donations and purchases, BBAHFH tries to maintain an inventory available that can be loaned out and installed by volunteers when needed by a family, but this can be difficult as ramps are expensive, and the need is great. BBAHFH is grateful for its partners, including the families who have donated ramps to be reused, supporting foundations in the region, and Oakley Home Access for making ramps available on a discounted basis.

When a family no longer requires the ramp, it is picked up by BBAHFH and then loaned to another low-income family in need. The Ramp Donation program helps those with existing accessibility issues, temporary injuries, or those who are checking out of a rehabilitation facility with hopes of returning home.

BBAHFH is running this program throughout Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport, and ramps are installed at no cost for families. This project is funded in part by grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Executive Office of Aging & Independence and Coastline Elderly Services, the Area Agency on Aging, through Federal Title-III funds.

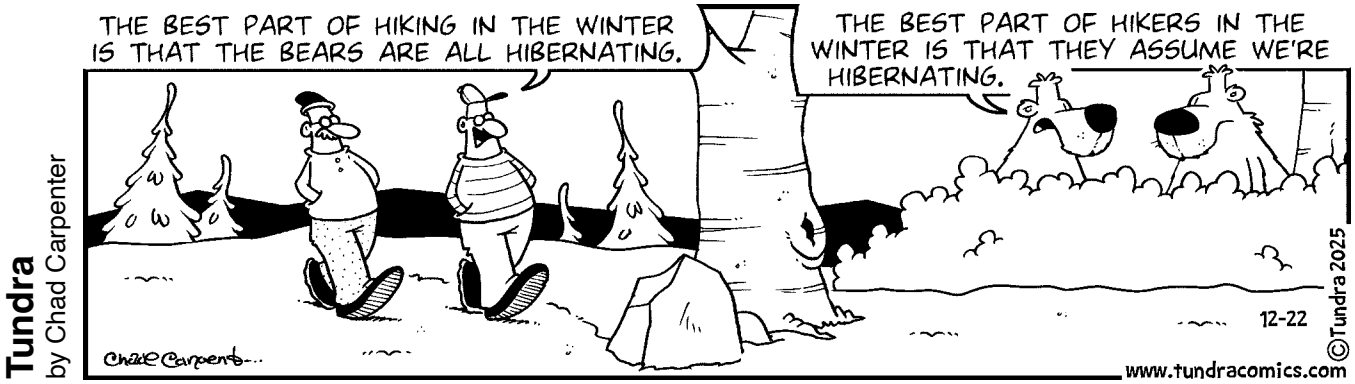
For more information on BBAHFH's Ramp Donation program, contact BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com, or call 508-758-4517. Tax-deductible donations to support the program may be made at www.BuzzardsBayHabitat.org or by sending a check to BBAHFH, P.O. Box 1584, Mattapoisett, MA 02739, and please note "Ramps for the Holidays."

Bulldog Pride Alumni Association Grant Program

The Bulldog Pride Alumni Association (BPAA) is pleased to announce the launch of its Grant Program for the 2025–2026 academic year, supporting creative and impactful initiatives at Old Rochester Regional Junior High School (ORRJHS) and Old Rochester Regional High School (ORRHS).

The program is open to students, teachers, and current staff of ORR schools. Applicants must complete

TUNDRA
CHAD CARPENTER
STRANGE. I ALWAYS PICTURED HIM AS MORE OF A BOXER GUY.


Tundra
by Chad Carpenter
THE BEST PART OF HIKING IN THE WINTER IS THAT THE BEARS ARE ALL HIBERNATING.
THE BEST PART OF HIKERS IN THE WINTER IS THAT THEY ASSUME WE'RE HIBERNATING.
12-22
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off the mark
by Mark Parisi
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Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps
MOM, MOM, IT'S SNOWING OUT! I'M GONNA GO PLAY OUTSIDE.
GEEZ, WHY DO MY GRANDPARENTS HATE WINTER? IF IT'S SO BAD WHY CALL IT A "WINTER WONDERLAND"?
ZIP!!
MAYBE BECAUSE RIGHT NOW I WONDER IF I BROKE SOMETHING?

the digital application as directed and are kindly asked to inform their school principal of the proposed project prior to submission.

BPAA grants aim to fund programs that enhance the educational experience during the current school year. Disbursements for equipment and services will begin on February 2, while reimbursements for materials and supplies must be submitted no later than June.

Applicants may indicate if their proposal is part of a multi-year project. Upon successful completion of the first year's goals, they may apply for an additional grant for the 2026–2027 school year. The BPAA Grants Committee will evaluate these applications based on the merits of the completed project.

For the 2025–2026 cycle, the BPAA is committing $3,000 to support selected projects through this grant program.

Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted by Monday, December 22 at 11:59 pm.

To apply, visit: www.orralumni.org/apply-for-a-grant.

For questions or more information, please contact the BPAA Grants Committee via the website.

LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF MARION
SELECT BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Application for Transfer of All-Alcohol Restaurant License

The Marion Select Board, acting as local licensing authority, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 6:40pm in the Marion Police Department Conference Room, 550 Mill Street, Marion, to consider the application of SGT Hospitality, d/b/a The Atlantic Bistro, 167 Spring Street, for the transfer of an all-alcohol restaurant license.
Randy L. Parker, Chair 12/18, 12/25

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1230

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Karl Ferreira, for property located at 522 Walnut Plain Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 14, Lot 6, who is seeking a Variance for an accessory structure over 1,000 sq. ft. for a proposed detached garage, pursuant to Chapter 20.40, Section E.2., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on Thursday, January 8th, 2026 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.
Donald Spirlet, Chairman 12/18, 12/25

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1231

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Francis & Jennifer Jones, for property located at 309 Neck Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 40, Lot 1A, who are seeking a Special Permit to allow for the construction of a two-family residence on the property, pursuant to Chapter 20.40, Section F.6., of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on Thursday, January 8th, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.
Donald Spirlet, Chairman 12/18, 12/25

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, One Constitution Way, Rochester, MA 02770, regarding a Site Plan Review application filed by Town of Rochester for the property located at 1 Constitution Way identified on Assessor's Map 31, Lot 31.

The applicant is proposing to clear land behind town hall and re-grade with 12" gravel base and stone surface to provide an 8,220 sq ft parking area with a 10-ft wide mulched border on three sides with stormwater management system consisting of grass swale and detention pond. The applicant's representative is Charon Associates, Inc., 323 Neck Road, Rochester, MA 02770.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, during normal business hours.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89879589414
Meeting ID: 898 7958 9414
Or Call: 1 646 876 9923
Arnold Johnson, Chairman 12/25, 1/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

There is a 1989 Pointer 17' located at our storage facility on Lake Street in Chatham, MA. The last registered owners are Peter Havel and Lynn Buckley of 66 Holly Road, Marion, MA. Balance due on storage fees are $6008.00. The boat will be accorded "abandoned" status unless immediate remedy is made. 12/25, 1/1, 1/8

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Don't forget to wish these people a Happy Birthday!

Barbara Lawrence	December 25
Bernadette Kelly	December 25
Holly A. Lestage	December 25
John Somers	December 25
Michael Robinson	December 25
Brendan Goss	December 26
Bridget Murphy	December 26
Dana Dexter	December 26
Eliza Van Voorhis	December 26
Sean Maloney	December 26
Tom Hagan	December 26
Tyler Mourao	December 26
Allison Kimball	December 27
Betsey Oldham	December 27
David Duchaine	December 27
Kate Hughes	December 27
Laurie Chiarito	December 27
Ethan Somers	December 28
Megan Field	December 28
Amber Gilbert	December 29
Christian Pedulli	December 30
Nicole Cameron	December 30
Tank Sheehan	December 30
Tom Stewart	December 30
Bill Barnes Jr.	December 31
Herb Webb	December 31
Karen M. Paquette	December 31
Sheryl Aguiar	December 31

If you would like *The Wanderer* to announce a birthday for yourself, a friend or family member, please submit your information online to us at www.wanderer.com. To submit information by regular mail, please send the person's name (month and day) along with your name and phone number so we can confirm the information to Birthdays, c/o The Wanderer, P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. You may submit birthday announcements anytime during the year and they will be published/posted during the appropriate week.

MWC Great Decisions Discussion Group

Do you have plans on Wednesday afternoons this winter? Get out of the house and join a thoughtful group of tri-town residents who seek to learn more about the world we live in. The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is offering the Great Decisions Program, a weekly in-person gathering where local residents meet to discuss foreign policy topics in an informal atmosphere. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers or videos to kick it off. Topic materials are provided in advance by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association. The conversation is friendly and welcoming of all perspectives. We offer light refreshments, coffee and tea. You don't have to be a foreign policy expert to participate–just someone who wants to become an informed global citizen.

Great Decisions meets Wednesdays from **January 14** through **March 4** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the downstairs Community Room at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow Street.

Registration is limited to 30 people and is available on a first-come, first-served basis. This program is open to all members of the Mattapoisett community and surrounding towns.

To register please submit your information using the following link: forms.gle/836hn9gX8m6wKyLu9 and send a check made out to the Mattapoisett Woman's Club for $40.00 to cover text and expenses. If two registrants are sharing one book the price is $50.00. If you prefer to mail in your registration, please include your name, address, email address and phone number on a piece of paper and include it with your check and mail it to: Mattapoisett Woman's Club, Box 1444 Mattapoisett MA 02739, Attn: Treasurer (memo on check Great Decisions).

If you have any questions, please email: mfpl@sailsinc.org.

Abigail Adams Returns

Abigail Adams, considered by many to be one of the founders of the United States, will be brought to life on **April 12** by Sheryl Faye, the actress renowned for her dramatic portrayals of historic women. This important fundraising presentation, in honor of our nation's sesquicentennial, is sponsored by the Friends of the Elizabeth Taber Library of Marion as the featured event at their annual spring Tea at the Marion Music Hall. To further the festive celebration there will be prizes given for most creative hat, the most patriotic outfit (for man or woman), as well as a Revolutionary trivia contest. Details will be forthcoming.

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Showstoppers Performance Troupe Seeking Local Talent

The Showstoppers community-service singing troupe is seeking talented youth for its 24th season. Boys and girls in grades 2 to 12 with singing ability are encouraged to apply.

Candidates are asked to submit 2 audition videos, one ballad and one upbeat song, for review. Call backs will be in person by appointment. Submissions do not need to be professionally done and can be recordings of solos in previous school productions. We are looking for kids with great potential.

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

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TODAY'S WORD
___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Successful candidates will rehearse one day per week for 1 1/2 to 2 hours and will have the opportunity to perform with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra in December. They will also make an impact on their community by providing musical entertainment to the elderly at nursing homes, senior centers, and assisted living facilities throughout the Southcoast. The troupe also performs for the community at-large through a variety of private and public venues, including fairs, festivals, schools, malls, charitable fundraisers and other civic events.

Videos and/or video links should be sent to ShowstoppersME@gmail.com. Email for more information or call 508-758-4525.

Showstoppers Musical Entertainment is a subsidiary of Showstoppers Performing Arts, Inc., an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Follow them on Facebook to keep updated on their activities: www.facebook.com/showstopppers.us.

South Coast Chamber Music Series

The South Coast Chamber Music Series offers a Place to Pause. When life moves too fast and the world feels loud, we all need a place to pause. The South Coast Chamber Music Series returns this fall with five weekends of transformative musical storytelling designed to help you slow down, breathe deeper, and reconnect - with yourself, with others, and with the beauty around you.

From soulful string quartets to joyful piano quintets, this season invites you on a journey through soundscapes that stir the spirit and quiet the mind. Whether you're seeking inspiration, healing, or just a moment to exhale, there's space for you here.

Under the inspired direction of pianist and Artistic Director Janice Weber, the 2025–2026 season is a vibrant mix of the familiar and the unexpected - featuring beloved classics, boundary-pushing works by contemporary composers, and rare gems that surprise and delight.

Five unforgettable concerts. One intention: to leave you changed.

Winter Fire - **January 31 and February 1**: Melt the midwinter chill with fiery string quartets and Mendelssohn's soaring piano trio. Music to spark your spirit.

Story Time - **March 28 and March 29**: Let every note tell a tale. From Appalachian traditions to Middle Eastern laments, these works bring global stories to your ears - and your heart.

Foursomes - **May 2 and May 3**: Four voices. Infinite emotion. This season finale delivers serenity and storm alike, with music by Brahms, Roustom, and more.

Concerts take place Saturdays at 3:00 pm at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Marion and Sundays at 3:00 pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Dartmouth. Tickets: Individual concerts: $35 (advanced purchase required), Season subscription: $140 for all five concerts (save 20%. Available through October 3).

To reserve your seat and find your moment of stillness, visit nbsymphony.org or call 508-999-6276 ext. 222.

The South Coast Chamber Music Series (SCCMS) was formed to present superior chamber music for the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. SCCMS held its first subscription series concert on October 20, 2001. Since then, we have performed composers from Bach, Brahms, and Ravel to present-day masters Takemitsu and Piston. Each program presents an engaging array of styles, timbres, and artists in lively acoustic environments in Marion and South Dartmouth. We joined forces with the NBSO in 2014, giving both organizations an opportunity to expand in all directions - more concerts, more musicians, and more music - and are thrilled to connect with our loyal and growing audience.

Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Gosnold Division and Training Ship Patriot State of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps are welcoming new applicants to the training program at Mass. Maritime Academy. Young men and women between the ages of 11 and 17 who may be interested in nautical or military opportunities are encouraged to join.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday at 10:00 am for Thursday's paper.

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Classified Advertisements are $8.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is $1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition $1 per week.

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Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

Dropping Off Classified Advertisements: Ads can be dropped by our office at 55 County Road in Mattapoisett, Monday, Thurs, Fri -9am to 3pm; Tuesday 9am to noon

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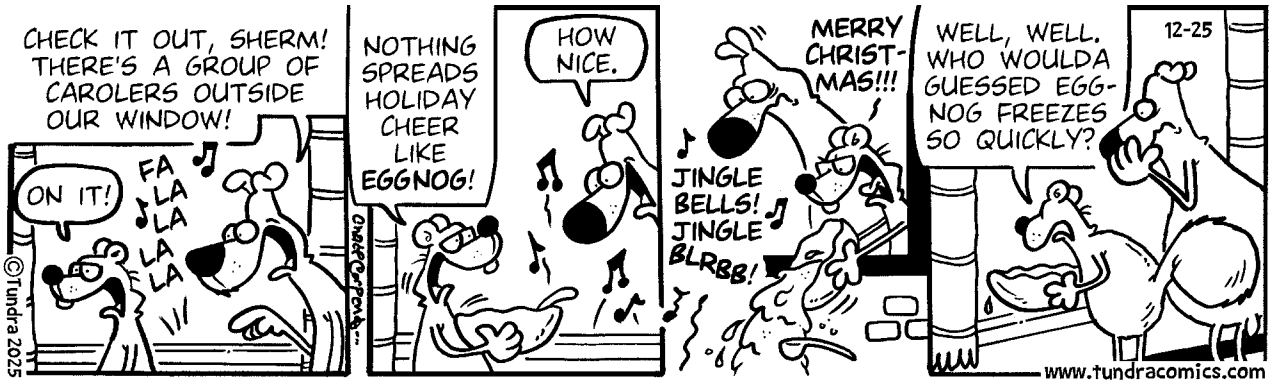
Tundra by Chad Carpenter



Scheduled events include an annual Swim Meet, community service, parades, ceremonies, marksmanship training, skills competition weekend at Joint Base Cape Cod and many other activities, as well as annual summer training, nationwide.

Training is conducted on alternating Saturdays between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm at Mass. Maritime Academy. Interested applicants should contact Lt. Cdr. James McLoughlin at 508-759-8606. View us on Facebook at Gosnold Division.

Marion Vaccination Information

The Marion Board of Health would like to let residents know that they still have flu and COVID-19 vaccines available.

If you are in need of in-home vaccination appointments, these are administered through the Marion Community EMS Program.

Please contact Maureen at the Board of Health at 508-748-3530 then press #1 if you are interested in scheduling an appointment for a vaccination.

Mattapoisett Congregational Church

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church's steeple is lit nightly and is a beacon of welcome and comfort to all. The Beacon of Light was started as a way to celebrate and honor loved ones or special occasions. If you would like the steeple to be lit in remembrance of, in celebration of, or in honor of a loved one or blessed event, please call the church office at 508-758-2671 or email mattcongchurch@gmail.com for more information. We welcome and encourage multiple entries each month. This is a special way to celebrate our beautiful steeple, as a Beacon of Light in Mattapoisett, and to financially support our church. Thank you for your donation.

American Legion: Florence Eastman Post # 28

All Southcoast Active Service Military, Reservists and Veterans are invited to join the monthly meetings of the American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #28.

(Serving the Tri-Town area of Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and beyond).

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1900 (7:00 pm).

Florence Eastman Post is located at 3 Depot Street, Mattapoisett. Tri-Town Veterans Office: www.mattapoisett.net/tri-town-veterans-office.

Birthday Parties at the MAC

The Marion Art Center's Arts & Crafts instructor Aylin Cetik is offering birthday parties in the MAC Studio. Parties for ages 4 and up will be scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, with 15 to 20 minutes reserved at the end of the party for a sweet treat. Available times are 10:00 am to 11:30 am or 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Suggested party themes include: mermaids, fairies, outer space, pirates, art and science, or custom. The cost is $275 for up to ten guests and $15 for each additional child with a maximum of 15 children. Add-on options include outdoor lawn games or other activities by request, for an additional fee. For more information and to inquire about dates, email aylincetik@gmail.com.

Marion Natural History Museum

Attention Pre-Schoolers and Home Schoolers, the Marion Natural History Museum is now open to the public on Friday mornings. The museum features collections of minerals, fossils, butterflies, birds of prey, and many other specimens. Appointments may be made for field trips. If you would like to schedule a

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Thank you all for entrusting us with your homes! It has been a pleasure serving the community for the past 8 years and we look forward to the years to come!
From our family to yours; **Happy Holidays!**
Best Wishes, **Nathan Demers & Family**

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The *Wanderer*

The Wanderer *is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.*

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(All Others) Tuesday at 10am
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Tues. 9am - 12 noon

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ISSN 1559-1212

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis

OBITUARIES

There are no Obituaries this week.

If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

time to come in and view these specimens as part of a lesson or just for fun, please contact the director for an appointment. We are open on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Fridays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Emergency Preparedness

This is the perfect time to think about and prepare for emergencies and disasters as Massachusetts faces a variety of hazards - weather-related or otherwise throughout the year.

If you feel that you would require assistance in an emergency, we would like to have a discussion with you so we can prepare a plan that will be ready to go when needed. If you rely on medical equipment at your residence that requires electricity. If you would require transportation to a shelter when such a need arises or live in a known flood zone. If you have a communication-related disability, we need to know the best way to communicate in an emergency state. If you take medications, we need a list.

If there is any other targeted assistance that you may need.

Please call the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570 so we can compile this information which will be reported to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). We want to be prepared.

We encourage residents and family members who may reside out of town to sign up for E-alerts from the Town of Marion (visit: marionma.gov/subscribe).

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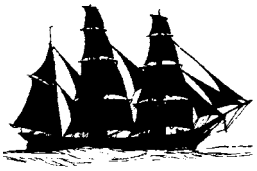
Christian McCullough / Michael Bichsel - Owners

Tri-Town Against Racism

Tri-Town against Racism (TTAR) announces they have developed a system to document discriminatory incidents experienced by community members in the Tri-Town. Collecting this information will help to identify how to best support the Tri-Town Region. The incident report can be completed online, either on a computer or mobile device, anonymously if preferred. Community members can also choose to identify themselves to TTAR in the report. Their personal identifying information will never be shared outside of TTAR. The incident report allows for individuals or families to share their stories to inform local change. Completing the form and sharing your experiences with TTAR will help to make a positive impact. The incident report can be found by visiting this link: forms.gle/UGEsEmjBCZTEYKX56.

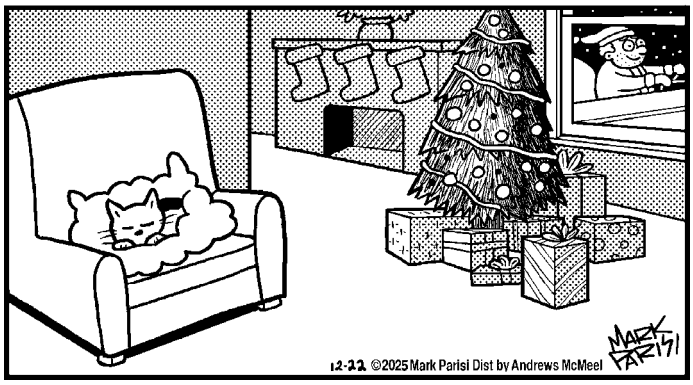


Real Estate Transactions

See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com

Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Bisson, Mark V Okeefe, Elaine	Lovett, William C TR Lovett, Thomas P Jr TR Thomas & Elana Lovett 2021 IT	131 Dexter Rd	Marion	12/04/2025	825,000.00
Machado, John M	Massbay Renovation & Dev LLC	12 Cannon St	Mattapoisett	12/05/2025	1,280,000.00
Reiis, Ana M					
Calodesu LLC	Moran, James Francis	3 Rock St	Mattapoisett	12/08/2025	530,000.00
Calvin, Bruce Calvin, Jennifer	Rego, Alfred P TR Arthur Victorino NT	135 Pine St	Rochester	12/09/2025	630,000.00
Judge, Christopher Judge, Tessa	Muse, Robert J TR Muse, Susan H TR 52 Prince Snow Circle RT	52 Prince Snow Cir	Mattapoisett	12/09/2025	1,275,000.00

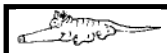
off the mark by Mark Parisi



Local Tides

Day	Date	High a.m.	High p.m.	Low a.m.	Low p.m.
Thursday	December 25	11:16	11:49	4:22	4:57
Friday	December 26		12:06	5:12	5:41
Saturday	December 27	12:40	12:59	6:14	6:34
Sunday	December 28	1:33	1:56	7:35	7:35
Monday	December 29	2:30	2:58	9:04	8:37
Tuesday	December 30	3:34	4:05	10:17	9:39
Wednesday	December 31	4:39	5:09	11:17	10:38:00
Thursday	January 1	5:40	6:07		12:14
Friday	January 2	6:36	7:01		1:09
Saturday	January 3	7:29	7:53	12:30	2:02
Sunday	January 4	8:20	8:44	1:27	2:50
Monday	January 5	9:10	9:35	2:21	3:30
Tuesday	January 6	9:59	10:26	3:12	4:05
Wednesday	January 7	10:49	11:18	3:59	4:38
Thursday	January 8	11:38		4:46	5:12
Friday	January 9	12:10	12:27	5:38	5:52
Saturday	January 10	1:01	1:16	6:43	6:39
Sunday	January 11	1:52	2:06	8:08	7:34

Phases of the Moon		
	First Quarter	December 27th
	Full Moon	January 3rd
	Last Quarter	January 10th
	New Moon	January 18th



I Found the Aardvark!

Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of *The Wanderer* is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don't put down this page as your answer, there's another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit: www.wanderer.com and Click on ***I Found the Aardvark***

In the December 18, 2025 edition the Aardvark was on page 37

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

P	O	S	T	I	T	S		K	E	E	P	S	A	K	E		A	L	G	A
U	P	T	O	B	A	T		A	T	R	A	N	D	O	M		B	E	L	L
B	R	O	W	N	F	O	R	T	H	E	C	O	U	N	T		R	E	A	L
S	Y	N	E		T	U	E					O	L	D		M	A	T	Z	O
		E	L	F		T	O	O	G	O	O	D	T	O	B	E	D	R	E	W
P	A	M	E	L	A			P	A	N	T	S			S	T	E	E	D	
I	N	A	T	U	F	T	S	S	P	O	T		B	E	A	R		V	O	L
L	O	S	T		T	O	M				O	R	E	S		O	L	I	V	A
O	T	O	E	S		T	U	P	A	C		E	T	A	S		I	N	E	Z
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			P	E	A			P	A	U	L	A			A	A	A			
L	A	M	E	D	U	K	E	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T		H	A	M
A	N	A	S		L	I	M	E		L	O	R	E	N		S	H	U	L	A
I	N	G	O	T		L	I	D	O				L	I	P		O	L	I	N
D	I	N		R	I	O	T		L	O	C	K	E	D	I	N	P	A	C	E
	H	A	B	I	T			F	A	U	N	A			G	U	I	S	E	S
R	I	C	E	T	O	T	H	E	F	I	N	I	S	H		I	N	K		
E	L	A	T	E		R	A	D					T	E	A		G	I	S	H
B	A	R	T		G	E	T	O	U	T	O	F	Y	A	L	E	F	R	E	E
E	T	T	E		I	N	E	R	R	A	N	T		P	I	V	O	T	E	D
L	E	A	R		S	T	R	A	I	N	E	D		S	T	A	R	S	K	Y

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Rocket; 2. Devour; 3. Brain; 4. Escort

Today's Word

BREAK

Sudoku Answer

5	6	7	9	8	1	3	4	2
9	3	4	7	2	6	8	1	5
1	8	2	4	5	3	7	9	6
3	2	5	6	9	8	1	7	4
7	9	1	2	4	5	6	8	3
8	4	6	3	1	7	2	5	9
4	7	9	8	6	2	5	3	1
6	5	8	1	3	4	9	2	7
2	1	3	5	7	9	4	6	8

off the mark by Mark Parisi

Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

SALE EFFECTIVE:
Friday, December 26, 2025 to Thursday, January 1, 2026

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2/$5

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Pillsbury Rolls
2/$7

64 oz.
Old Orchard Cranberry Juice **$2.99**

8.9-12 oz. Selected Variety
General Mills Cereal **$3.99**

4 oz. Chopped
Old EL Paso Green Chilies **$1.79**

3 oz. Selected Variety
Maruchan Roman Noodle Soup **3/$1**

5 oz. Selected Variety
Bumble Bee Solid White Tuna **2/$3**

19 oz. Selected Variety
Progresso Beans **$1.79**

5-5.5 oz. Selected Variety
Emerald Nuts **$4.19**

16 oz. Selected Variety
Daisy Sour Cream **2/$5**

48 oz. Selected Variety
Friendly's Ice Cream **$4.99**

WINE

Juve & Camps · 750 ml. Spain
Brut Nature Cava **$19.99** Reg. · $22.99

Mumm · 750 ml. California
Sparkling Wines **$19.99** Reg. · $22.99

BAKERY

20 oz. Pkg. New York or
Table Talk Blueberry Crumb Cake **$6.99**

Fresh
Friends' Store Made Garlic Bread **$3.49**

CHEF PREPARED

Fresh
Garden Side Salad **$6.99 ea**

Various Styles
Take & Bake Pizza **$8.99 ea - $10.99 ea**

Homemade Savory Pies to Go!

	Small	Large
Chicken Pot Pie	$13.99 ea	$19.99 ea
Shepherd's Pie	$12.99 ea	$19.99 ea

MEAT, DELI, PREPARED FOODS & CHEESE

Fresh, Boneless
Bell & Evans Chicken Breast
$8.99 lb

Deli Sliced, Firesmith Grilled
Boar's Head Chicken Breast
$11.99 lb

14 oz. Pkg. Beef
Kayem Fenway Franks **$5.99**

16 oz. Pkg.
Oscar Meyer Bacon **$5.99**

Deli Sliced
Boar's Head Pepper Jack Cheese **$7.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Made Greek Pasta Salad **$8.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Made Chicken Salad **$11.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged Seafood Salad **$10.99 lb**

Deli Fresh
Friends' Store Packaged Red Bliss Potato Salad **$6.99 lb**

8 oz. Pkg. Ball
BelGioioso Mozzarella Cheese **$3.99**

12 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
Boar's Head Greek Yogurt Dip **2/$8**

8 oz. Pkg.
Boar's Head Gruyere Cheese **$7.99**

26 oz. Pkg. Selected Variety
Boar's Head Pickles **$4.99**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!

Our Holiday Hours:

New Years Eve • 7am-6pm
New Years Day • 10am-6pm

Visit our website!
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Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

Wishing you a New Year filled with peace, love and good cheer! Here's to a healthy and happy 2026!

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Open Daily: 7am–8pm

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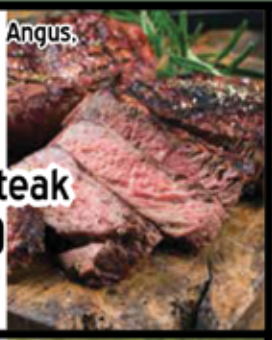
SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, December 26, 2025 to Thursday, January 1, 2026

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!

Certified Black Angus, Boneless
Friends' Premium Ribeye Steak
$20.99 lb



8.5-12.5 oz. Selected Variety
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$3.99

16 oz. Selected Variety
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Red Grapes — **$3.99 lb**

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Lemons — **59¢ ea**

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SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!